GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2551
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2001
CHILDREN DENIED ESSENTIAL MEDICINES
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that `Children denied essential medicines` as reported in the `Hindustan Times` dated 21 January, 2001;

(b) if so, facts thereof;

(c) the reasons for not supplying vitamin `A` solution and iron and folic acid tablets to States that were to be administered to infants/children every six months, under the Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) Scheme; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b), (c) and (d) Vitamin A solution and Iron and Folic Acid (IFA) tablets are supplied to States/UTs regularly as part of Drug Kit `A` to sub-centres. These items are not supplied to the Anganwadis under the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme by the Department of Family Welfare. However, States/UTs have been requested to involve the ICDS workers in the distribution of these items. The number of Drug Kits `A` supplied to States/UTs during 1995-96 was 215264, 264570 in 1996-97, 267000 in 1997-98 and 303603 in 1998-99.